

notion of sports wagering is something that the majority of the people support, then it will be passed. It is a simple process. The bills can still be introduced this session. I would recommend to the sponsor that a constitutional amendment be presented before the Legislature and follow the normal process and we can discuss on the policy issues alone whether sports wagering should, in fact, be allowed in the State of Nebraska. Now the second argument against sports wagering is the exploitation of student athletes which will result as a result of enactment of this bill by consciously exposing them to the added pressure of external attempts to influence the outcome of athletic events. It encourages the susceptibility of student athletes for payoffs or bribes to shave points. Now I think we're all aware of the danger of something like this. How far does it go? Will we have a situation where a high school team, such as any high school team, will shave some points because of some bet going on? And what will happen when we're involved in colleges where we have a situation like Nebraska at the Fiesta Bowl, where we have millions of dollars being bet on college athletics on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day? Won't the temptation be great? Won't the possibility of bribes and payoffs be the case? Why should we, as legislators, encourage a situation such as that? And this was noted by Coach Tom Osborne in a letter that was mailed to myself, and I will be presenting to this Legislature, which shows his strong opposition to this particular bill on sports wagering. The dangers of entrapping athletes, the dangers and susceptibilities of having college athletes possibly paid to shave points is too great and why should we encourage that situation? In addition, it cheapens the integrity of athletic, amateur athletic competition. The final argument against LB 757 is the enforceability of this particular bill, or I should say what will happen when enforcement occurs? The sports wagering will be operated, there are no particular guidelines, not enough guidelines to properly run the system. We could have a situation where individuals would make bets and be unable to cover those bets. In addition, we've seen in the past where, unless we have strict enforcement and strict regulation, individuals seem to always get around and not give the state their fair share of taxation, a minor argument, but none the same, an argument. I think the most compelling reason and the reason last year why this bill failed to advance and why this bill, in my attempts last year to kill it, but more importantly, why this bill failed to advance last year is because it is unconstitutional. I feel that the Nebraska Constitution is fairly clear on this issue of game of